Domestic Tourism in the Country

5946. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to revive interest in domestic tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what facilities Government propose to provide to the domestic tourists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Promotion of domestic tourism is a continuous activity. Department of Tourism in the Central Government has inter-alia taken steps to augment accommodation for domestic tourists by promoting budget accommodation, camping sites, paying guest accommodotion, affordable accommodation at pilgrim centres. Promotion of handicrafts and folk culture has been promoted through financial assisance to craft melas, fairs and festivals.

Tourist Places of Buddhist Interest

5947. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the places of Bhuddhist tourist interest in Orissa, Bihar and other States;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any programme for the development of those places of tourist interests.

(c) if so, the fund provisions made during 8th Plan; and

(d) the state-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Some of the important places of Buddhist tourist interest are—Orissa; Dhauli, Lalitgiri-Udaigiri-Ratnagiri-Khandagiri; Bihar—Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir. Vaishali.; Andhra Pradesh—Nagarjunakonda, Amravati; J&K —Ladakh region; Madhya Pradesh—Sanchi; Maharashtra — Ajanta-Ellora,Aurangabad; Kerala-Bhaja and Kanhari; Caves; Uttar Pradesh—Kushinagar. Piprahawa, Sarnath, Sravasti, the State of Sikkim, etc..

(b) The Government of India alongwith the concerned State Governments are endeavouring to improve and provide additional facilities at the places of Buddhist tourist interest in the country. On receipt of complete proposals from the State Governments, Central financial assistance has been released for construction of tourist complexes, meditation centres, wayside amenities, tourist reception centre, etc. at the various Buddhist Centres. In addition, two projects with the Japanese Government OECF loan are underway for the development of infrastructure in UP and Bihar (Rs. 220.47 crores) and in Ajanta Ellora in Maharashtra at a cost of Rs. 83.11 crores.

(c) and (d) During the 8th Plan, financial assistance extended is as follows:-

	Amount Sanctioned
Andhra Pradesh	39.47
Bihar	40.62
J & K	24.23
Maharashtra	24.25
U. P.	120.85

East-West Airlines financial links with under world nexus

5948. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI had cleared East-West Airlines to have equity in the aviation company but now the Airlines is being asked to reveal the sources of foreign funding:

(b) if so, whether clearance was given to the Airlines to operate three years ago wwithout investigating the sources of foreign funds; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) M/s East West Travel Links Ltd. was issued Air Taxi Operator's Permit in February 1992 after all the conditions laid down were compiled with by the Operator.

Director General of Civil Aviation does not investigate the sources of funding. However, different agencies of the Government retain the right to question any organisation/individual at any time to ensure compliance with provisions of law.

Amount Spent on Advertisements

5949. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the details of the total amount spent by the his Ministry on advertisement given to newspapers direct or through DAVP etc. during the period 1994-95 (Language-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):
LAM NABI AZAD): Total amount spent on advertisement regarding 1994-95 is given as under:

(From April 1994 to April 1995)

S.No.	Name of the Newspapers/publication	Language	Date	Amount released
				Rs.
1.	See India	English	July 1994	12,000
2.	All India Boys Scouts Association (Diary)	English	August' 94	300
3.	The Souvenir of World Archaeological Congress	English	August'94	20,000
4.	Top Tourism Bulletin	English	August'94	13,000
5.	Panth Prakash	English	Sept.'94	24,000
6.	Denouement Magazine	English	Sept.'94	6,000
7.	Bharati Worker	English	Sept.'94	2,800
8.	Lamha-e-Fikriyyah	Urdu	Sept.,94	8.000
9.	Vir Arjun	Hindi	Sept.'94	15,000
10.	Patrakar Sadan	Hindi	Oct.'94	30,000
11.	The Daily Pasban	Urdu	Oct.'94	7,500
12.	Mashriqi Awaz	Urdu	Oct./Nov.'94	15,000
13.	Safari India	English	Oct.'94	17,000
14.	The Times Book of Executive Style (The Economic Times)	English	Oct.'94	45,000
15.	Lokmat	Hindi	Nov.'94	22,000
16.	India The Best of the Best	English	Nov.'94	40,000